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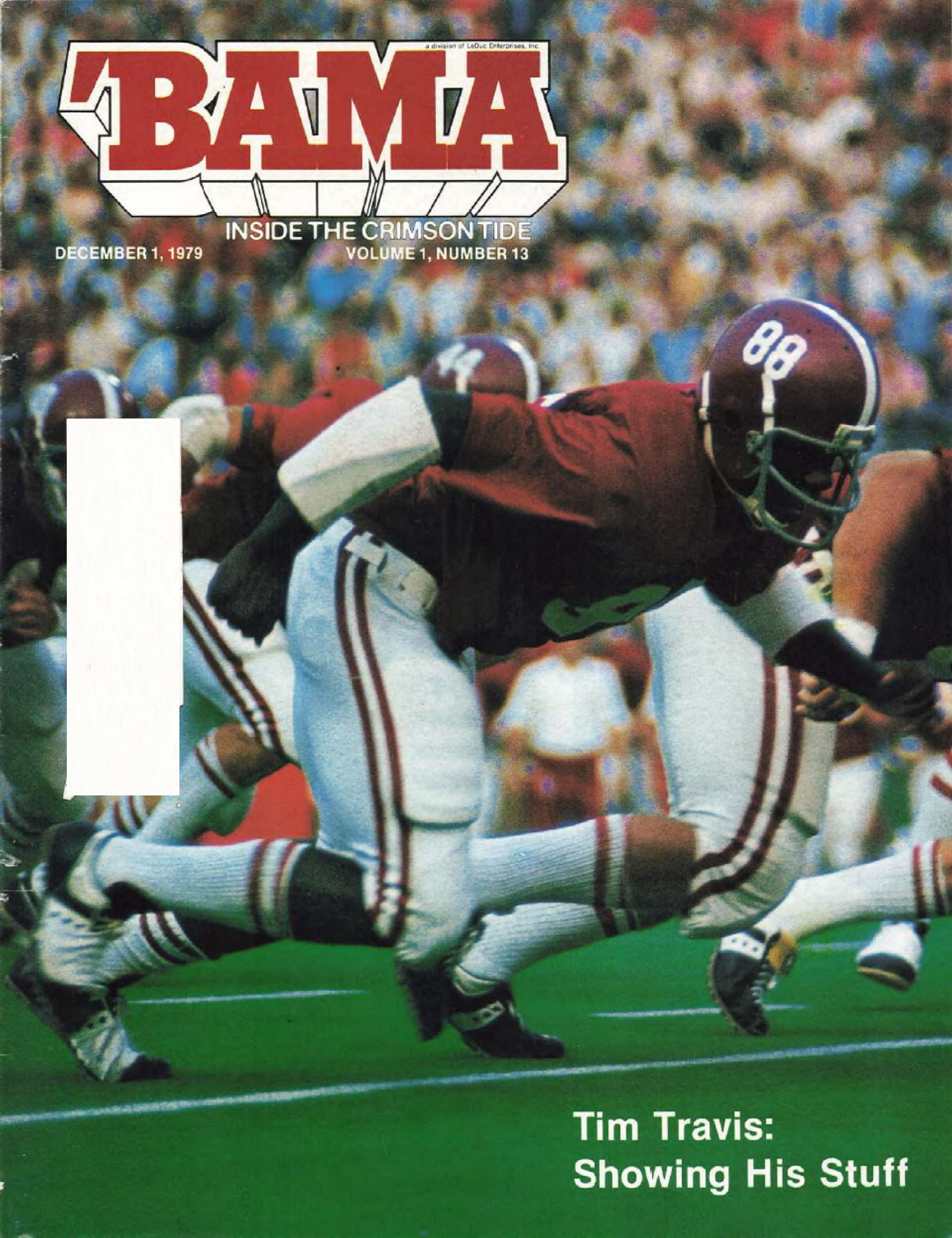
'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

DECEMBER 1, 1979 VOLUME 1, NUMBER 13



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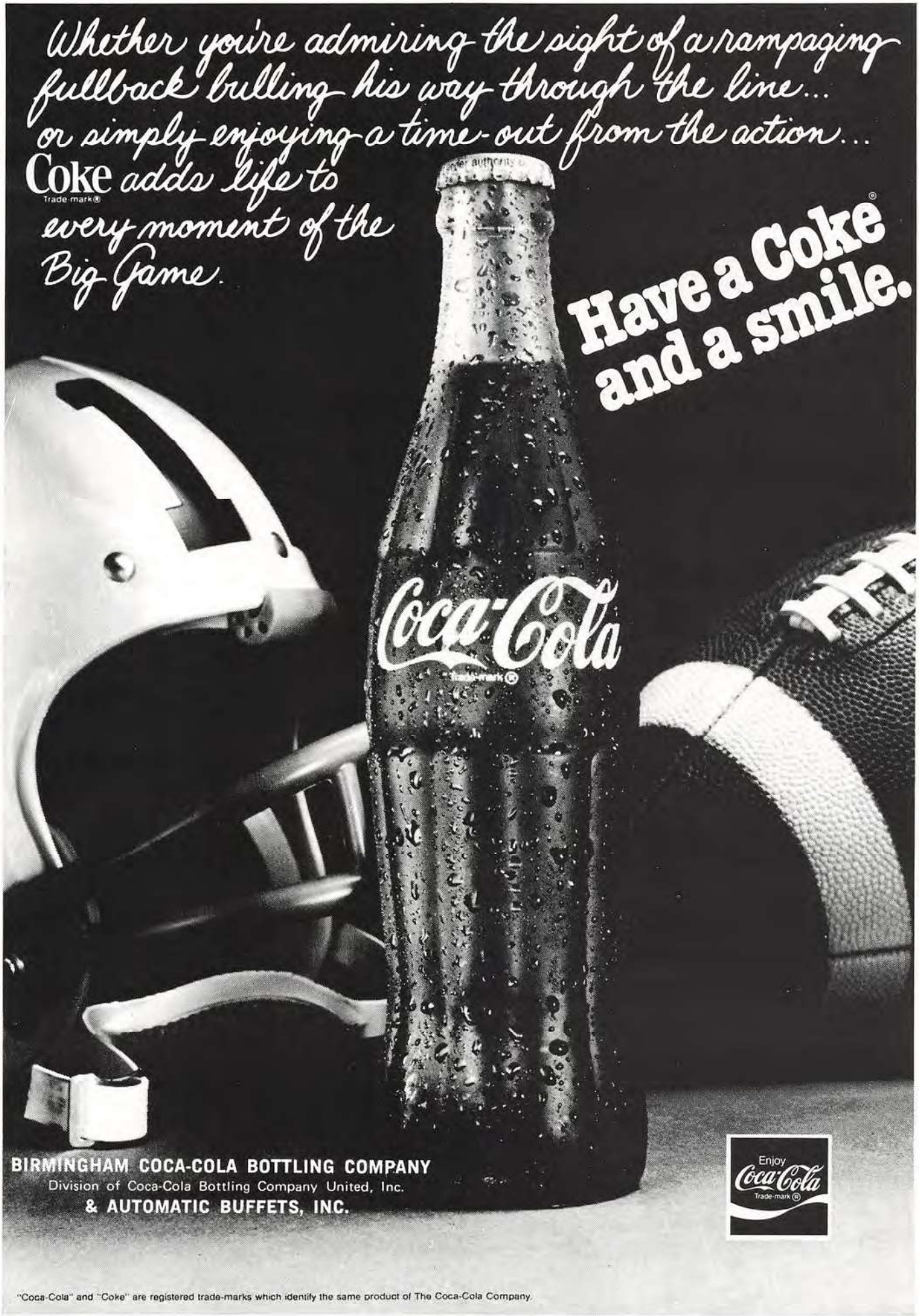
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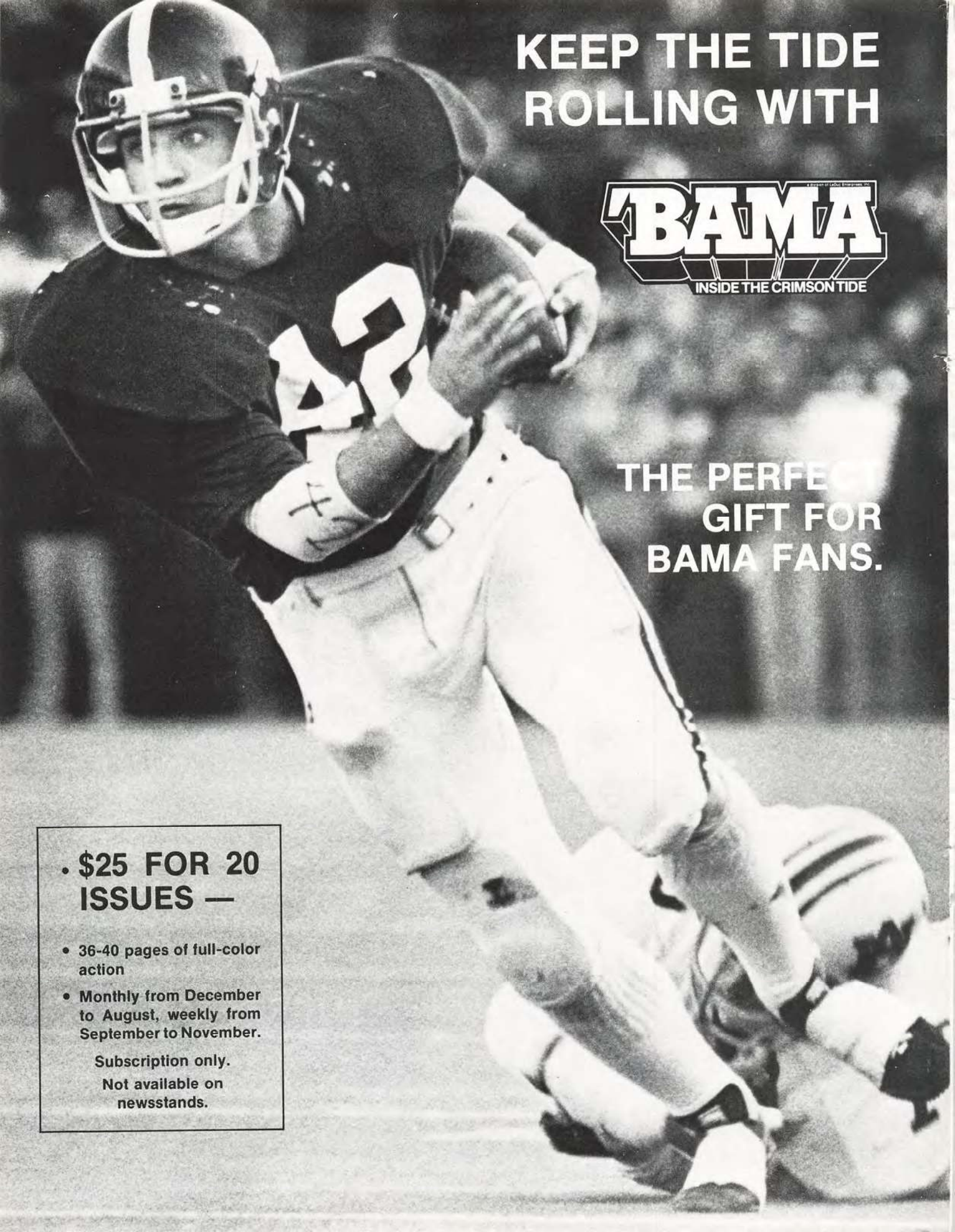
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On the cover: Alabama tight end Tim Travis fires off the line. He could be running a pass route or looking for an opponent to block. Either way, Tim is effective.
—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

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A ONE GAME SEASON? YES AND (MAYBE) NO

by Kirk McNair

Overlooked in the events of last weekend was the fact that Alabama won its 17th Southeastern Conference championship, eighth title of the 1970s. The state of affairs at Alabama is such that the coveted SEC crown is nothing more than a trinket picked up along the way towards a higher goal.

Unfortunately, there is still the possibility that Bama might be only co-champions of the league. And if that occurs there will be no celebrating the conference championship.

It has long been coach Bryant's and Alabama's philosophy that the goal is the national championship. If the proper strides are made towards that title, the SEC championship will take care of itself. The worst thing that can happen to the Tide now as far as the league race is concerned is to be tied by Georgia. But along with that goes some things that make the term "worst" hardly sufficient.

Georgia and Alabama could be co-champions if Auburn should defeat the Tide in Birmingham a week from Saturday in Birmingham's Legion Field. Auburn is on probation for cheating and not eligible for the title even though a win over Bama would give the Tigers the same 5-1 record as Alabama and Georgia—and victories over the co-champs.

Unquestionably the biggest game that Alabama plays each year is the Auburn contest. Even though the Tennessee game (and occasional matches against out-of-conference powers) may be viewed from a national standpoint as more important, the state championship game is for bragging rights and the spoils that go with it, including recruiting power.

The Tide holds a commanding lead in this series, but each game is a new year (except that Auburn still crows over its last win, seven years ago).

All sorts of things are on the line for Alabama. It has been said many times before that the Tide cannot afford any slipup if it is to repeat as national champion. Certainly this late in the season that is particularly true. Bama is also nursing the nation's longest winning streak (19 games), an on-going record for consecutive conference victories (22), and can tie its own record for consecutive victories (set under Wallace Wade, 1924-26).

But it may be that the biggest concern among Bama fans is the bowl streak. Alabama has been to a national record 20 consecutive bowls (among its national record 32 total appearances). As of early this week the bowl streak could be in jeopardy.

While Georgia's loss to Auburn cost the Bulldogs an automatic bid to the Sugar Bowl, the 'Dogs would back into New Orleans if Alabama falls to Auburn. Georgia can be no better than 6-5 at the end of the regular season, could be 5-6 after this week's game against Georgia Tech. There has been occasional speculation that Georgia might decline the Sugar Bowl spot. Prior to the Auburn game that was not likely. However, now that Georgia has lost to Auburn there is the possibility that Georgia coach Vince Dooley might decide that the honorable thing to do is to decline the invitation, giving the spot to the more worthy team, Alabama.

Could Georgia do that? The Sugar Bowl

Left, Alabama quarterback Steadman Shealy (10) had a big day for Alabama against Miami Saturday, but in an unusual vein it was Shealy's passing (for 187 yards and one touchdown) rather than his running that was standout. Right, Tide defensive back Ricky Tucker enjoys being a part of the celebration of setting a new Alabama record for interceptions. Ricky and four others turned in thefts Saturday, bringing the year's total to 25.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photos

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and the SEC have a contract. If the Sugar Bowl (a cinch), Georgia, Alabama and the conference agreed to it, the contract could be rewritten. ABC, which televises the Sugar Bowl (and pays a hefty segment of the costs), would certainly be thrilled. ABC put Georgia on television this weekend which is no doubt designed to showcase the Bulldogs in case they are in the Sugar Bowl.

When would Georgia step aside, if at all? If Georgia loses to Georgia Tech Saturday the Bulldogs might make such a decision then. It might be better for the decision to be made before Saturday. Coach Dooley would gain a lot of stature for such a decision. And if he makes it before Alabama plays Auburn he gains the prestige at no cost if the Tide defeats the Tigers.

But it could be that Georgia would take the bid irregardless. Georgia quarterback Jeff Pyburn said following the loss to Auburn Saturday: "Do we want to go? Yes. Do we deserve to go? No."

Coach Dooley was asked about the possibility of such an occurance following the Auburn game, admitted it was a legitimate question, but refused to address himself to it. He did say that he did not plan to have practice the week after the Georgia Tech game, but that's meaningless information. If Alabama is in the Sugar Bowl the Tide probably won't practice the week following the Auburn game. If Georgia does not decline the invitation can Alabama be assured of a bowl bid regardless of how the Auburn game goes? The chances must be considered remote, but there were a few bowl openings early this week. Younger, less prestigious bowls would probably be wise to take a chance of waiting for a 10-1 Alabama. They are getting left over teams anyway and even if Alabama defeats Auburn they would have a chance for some other late charging team that ends up 8-3 or 7-4, better than those bowls are likely to do by jumping now.

Obviously the bowl situation could have been cleared up with a Georgia win over Auburn. The Cotton Bowl (which knew it didn't have a chance) and the Orange Bowl (which knew it would get Alabama if the Bulldogs and Tide were winners Saturday), as well as an ecstatic Sugar Bowl, were represented at Saturday's Bama

Top, David Hannah (74) applies good pressure on the Miami quarterback. Hurricane hurlers had their problems with the Tide defense Saturday as Bama rolled to a 30-0 victory. Below, freshman strong safety Tommy Wilcox and Tide linebacker Randy Scott are the only ones near the Miami pass, resulting in an interception for Wilcox.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photos

game. Before the Alabama-Miami kickoff the Orange Bowl men, who were aware of the rout in place at Athens, were on the telephone trying to get new (and earlier) flights back to Miami.

For the second year in a row Bama assistant athletics director for public relations Charley Thornton had a large supply of pre-written stories of Alabama accepting a bowl bid to throw away. Last year it was the Cotton Bowl that lost out at the end when Auburn and Georgia tied.

Of course, Alabama can take care of all its problems by running its record to 11-0 with a win over Auburn. Then the only problem would be which Southwest Conference team would provide the Sugar Bowl opposition.

Auburn has a number of psychological advantages going into the game. Obviously the chance to be a spoiler gives the Tigers something to shoot for. They aren't going anywhere and few people can name the 8-2 teams of the world, but everyone takes notice when you knock off the top gun. Auburn no doubt also remembers last year when the Tigers had Alabama down before fumbling just before the half, allowing Jeff Rutledge to pass for a go-ahead touchdown.

"I think it's tougher for us every week," said Bama's Jim Bunch following the Miami game. "Everyone wants to get our streak and our ranking and they are taking their shots. But I think we'll be loose for Auburn. We have two weeks to prepare. I think everyone's pretty happy about how things have turned out. I wouldn't have minded going to the Orange Bowl, but I think it's good for the Auburn game to mean so much more."

Don McNeal was happy with events of Saturday. "I love the Sugar Bowl. I know it's not going to rain on us there. But it puts some pressure on us. We don't want to be, and don't deserve to be, the team that ends the bowl streak. But more than that I don't want to lose to Auburn. They say it's a bad feeling. I don't want to find out."

It's very likely that Auburn is the best team that Alabama will have faced in this season, even though Bama has defeated three bowl teams (Baylor, Tennessee and LSU). It will be important from the standpoint of trying to impress the voters in the national polls to do well against the Tigers.

How much did Bama impress Saturday with the 30-0 win over Miami? Watching in person or on national television, voters may not have been impressed. However, the final score and final statistics were the stuff of a national championship team. It was not a poor Miami football team that came into Tuscaloosa. The Hurricanes are young, but they had battered Penn State for a good confidence builder, then had a weekend off to allow plenty of time for the healing of wounds and preparation for the Tide.

Miami elected to try to stop the Bama wishbone with essentially a nine-man front. That meant that the pass was invited, but close to the goalline it made life miserable for Alabama. The result was too many stalled drives in scoring range.

But the big stoppers of the day were in Crimson. Five Alabama defenders turned in interceptions, giving the Tide a school record 25 for the year. Bama even got one interception on a busted defensive play, Randy Scott being out of position but in the line of fire for a Miami pass. Ricky Tucker and freshmen Tommy Wilcox, Jeremiah Castille and Al Blue (seeing his

Alabama is one of the nation's best-known television teams (the Tide has appeared on TV 56 times under coach Bryant), but Saturday's game with Miami marked the first time that a game has ever been televised from Tuscaloosa. Previous Bama television appearances have been Birmingham, bowl, or road games.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

first varsity action) go the other thefts. Miami had been expecting to be able to throw, particularly since their receivers are all tall and good jumpers.

Miami's only journey into Alabama territory came on a kickoff return to the Tide 35.

The Tide's fifth shutout of the year was the third against a team coached by a man who is a so-called pupil of coach Bryant. Bama defeated Charley Pell's Florida Gators 40-0, Charley McClendon's LSU Tigers 3-0 and Howard Schellenberger's Miami 30-0, a total spread of 73-0.

A most pleasant sight for Alabama fans was seeing the passing effectiveness of Steadman Shealy to Keith Pugh. Shealy passed for 187 yards and 126 of those were on seven completions to Pugh. "They were playing us man-to-man and we just took advantage of it," said Keith.

Shealy got a little backup help at quarterback this week as Alan Gray worked some at the critical position. Don Jacobs is expected back for Auburn to add depth to the quarterbacking corps; Tommy Wilcox is also keeping his hand in at the position. Shealy continues to wear a tearaway jersey. He's had to leave the game because of a torn jersey only once since the quarterback corps became depleted, however.

It's difficult to understand Alabama's problems offensively close to the goalline. Even though the defense is bunched up as expected, earlier this year the Tide offense was moving with far more authority close to the goal than it is now. Part of the inconsistency can be laid to the injury situation that has forced a shuffling of the lineup, but most Tide players and coaches agree that there have been breakdowns that shouldn't have been. Penalties for motion and delay of game near the goalline have been particularly irksome.

There are still some things we're not doing right," admitted Mike Brock after the Miami game. "We're not executing, which is concentration by all 11 on every play. But," he added, "we're ten and zero, so we must be doing something right."

Brock and others wondered if the Bama performance on television would influence voters to drop the Tide out of the number one spot in the polls. Few of the voters (sportswriters and broadcasters in the Associated Press poll, coaches in the United Press International ratings) probably had a chance to watch the game. And those who did may also have seen the Ohio State performance against Michigan. By comparison, Alabama did not look shabby.

There was one noticeable change in the Tide depth chart Saturday. Mitch

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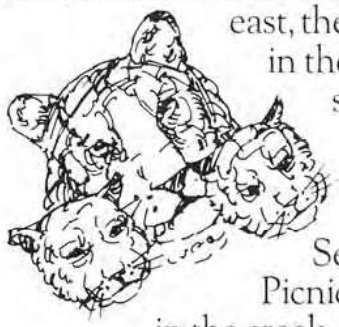

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Ferguson, who has been spotty at left halfback this year, moved to number two fullback for the Miami game and looked impressive. Ferguson, who was the starting right halfback in 1977 then injured and redshirted last year, worked at fullback in the spring but but not seen practice or game time at that spot until last week. He worked there Tuesday before the Miami game, then played well Saturday. "I felt comfortable," said Mitch. "I know what to do there, but I need to brush up a little."

Early in the season it appeared that this Alabama team had the stuff to set some records and they are beginning to fall. More are almost certain to come following the Auburn game. In addition to the school record for interceptions, Bama has 196 first downs rushing this year, breaking the old school (and SEC) mark of 192 set in 1973. Alan McElroy's three field goals against Miami tied the one-game record held by several Tiders (including Alan) and gave him 14 for the year, breaking Bill Davis' 1971 mark for Bama (13).

TIDE NOTES: This week the Alabama junior varsity, 3-0, will close out its season against Auburn in Auburn. The game kicks off at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and there is no admission charge . . . TIME magazine has had reporters and photographers following coach Bryant for the past few weeks in preparation for an upcoming cover story . . . The next issue of 'BAMA will be out following the Auburn game.★

ALABAMA STATISTICS VS. MIAMI

RUSHING	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Whitman	11	70	0	70	0	19
Shealy	14	47	19	28	0	16
Ferguson	4	27	0	27	0	10
Ogilvie	9	26	0	26	1	9
J. Jones	7	21	0	21	0	5
Fagan	3	19	0	19	0	9
Orcutt	5	17	0	17	0	6
Hill	3	14	0	14	0	9
Gray	4	13	0	13	0	12
Haney	2	10	0	10	1	5
Jackson	6	11	2	9	0	4
Nix	2	3	0	3	0	2
BAMA TOTALS	70	278	21	257	2	19
MIAMI TOTALS	23	103	19	84	0	13

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Umphrey	3	109	36.3	38
MIAMI TOTALS	7	274	39.1	48

SCORE BY QUARTERS:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	--	Final
Alabama	10	0	7	13	--	30
Miami	0	0	0	0	--	0

SCORING:

Ala -- Travis, 56 Shealy pass (McElroy kick)
Ala -- McElroy, 24 field goal
Ala -- Ogilvie, 1 rush (McElroy kick)
Ala -- McElroy, 25 field goal
Ala -- McElroy, 40 field goal
Ala -- Haney, 5 rush (McElroy kick)

DEFENSE	Tackle	Assist	For Loss-Yards
R. Jones	7	1	
Boyd	6	0	1-5
Junior	5	0	1-6
McNeal	4	0	
McGriff	4	0	
Harris	1	2	
Simon	2	0	
Blue	2	0	
Castille	2	0	
Hannah	1	1	
Hamilton	1	1	1-8

PASSING	Att-Comp-Int	Yards	TD	Long
Shealy	15- 9 - 0	187	1	56
Gray	1- 0 - 0	0	0	0
BAMA TOTALS	16- 9 - 0	187	1	56
MIAMI TOTALS	28- 6 - 5	47	0	15

RECEIVING	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Pugh	7	126	0	33
Travis	1	56	1	56
Ferguson	1	5	0	5

ALL RETURNS	Punts No.	Punts Yds.	Kickoffs No.	Kickoffs Yds.	Int'c'ns No.	Int'c'ns Yds.
Tucker	2	9			1	(-2)
Wilcox	2	4			1	6
McNeal			1	16		
Blue					1	23
Castille					1	15
Scott					1	0
BAMA TOTALS	4	13	1	16	5	42
MIAMI TOTALS	1	9	5	131	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS	BAMA	UM
First Downs	26	8
Rushing	18	4
Passing	7	3
Penalty	1	1
Total Offensive Plays	86	51
Total Net Yards	444	131
Average Gain Per Play	5.16	2.57
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-25	9-80
Time Of Possession	40:06	19:54
Third Down Conversions	8-17	3-12

Passes Broken Up	No.
McNeal	4
Harris	3
Tucker	3
Wilcox	3
Clements	2

COACH BRYANT ON BAMA

"I said before the season that I thought Auburn had more football players than any team in the conference and I still think that's true. They had some injury problems, but they've done a great job of getting back together.

"There's no team in America—in fact there never has been—that has two backs as explosive as Auburn does in James Brooks and Joe Cribbs. And they have a senior quarterback, Charley Trotman, who is underrated.

"They have a great team and it means a great deal to us to beat them. We need to win for the championship and the bowl and the streak and all those other things, but mostly because we like to beat Auburn.

"Our win over Miami was a big one for us because of the winning streaks.

"Offensively we didn't impress me; defensively we did. Of course, I'm proud of both the offense and the defense.

"Our not moving the ball inside their 20 was primarily a matter of Miami stopping us. However, we're going to get some extra work on the things that are happening down close to the goalline.

"Defensively we shut off a team with a potent passing attack. I'm proud of that. We weren't spectacular, but we did put 30 points on the board.

"As of now we go to the Sugar Bowl if we beat Auburn and we don't go anywhere if we don't. I'm like the players in that I feel that if we can't beat Auburn we don't deserve to go to a bowl. I thought we were going to have some choices, though. There's nothing we can do about not having any alternatives.

"We're still handicapped by injuries and we're handicapped by having to play people who haven't had much work. We have two weeks now to get ready for Auburn and hopefully we'll get some of our injured people well and ready in that time."

ALABAMA DEPTH CHART VS. MIAMI

Alabama used 61 men against Miami Saturday, including 18 freshmen. Nine of those freshmen were true first year men. Bama used 31 on offense, 24 on defense and six on specialty teams. Starters are listed first and no one is listed at more than one spot, although a few played more than one position.

OFFENSE

Split End: Keith Pugh, Keith Marks, Ry Ogilvie
Left Tackle: Buddy Aydelette, Eddie McCombs, Vince Cowell
Left Guard: Mike Brock, Scott Allison, Dan Holcombe
Center: Dwight Stephenson, Steve Mott
Right Guard: Vince Boothe, Wiley Barnes, Gary Bramblett
Right Tackle: Jim Bunch, Bob Cayavec
Tight End: Tim Travis, Bart Krout, Larry Brown
Quarterback: Steadman Shealy, Alan Gray
Left Halfback: Billy Jackson, Joe Jones, Ben Orcutt, James Haney
Right Halfback: Major Ogilvie, Mark Nix, Jeff Fagan
Fullback: Steve Whitman, Mitch Ferguson, John Hill

DEFENSE

Left End: Wayne Hamilton, Gary DeNiro, Mike Pitts
Left Tackle: Byron Braggs, Jackie Cline
Noseguard: Curtis McGriff, Warren Lyles
Right Tackle: David Hannah, Scott Homan
Right End: E. J. Junior, John Mauro
Strongside Linebacker: Randy Scott, Russ Wood
Weakside Linebacker: Thomas Boyd, Robbie Jones
Left Halfback: Don McNeal, Jeremiah Castille
Right Halfback: Ricky Tucker, Mike Clements
Strong Safety: Tommy Wilcox, Jerrill Sprinkle
Safety: Jim Bob Harris, Benny Perrin, Al Blue

SPECIALTY TEAMS

Punter: Woody Umphrey
Placekicker: Alan McElroy
Snapper: Barry Smith

Returns and Coverage: Buddy Holt, Joe Robbins, Kenny Simon

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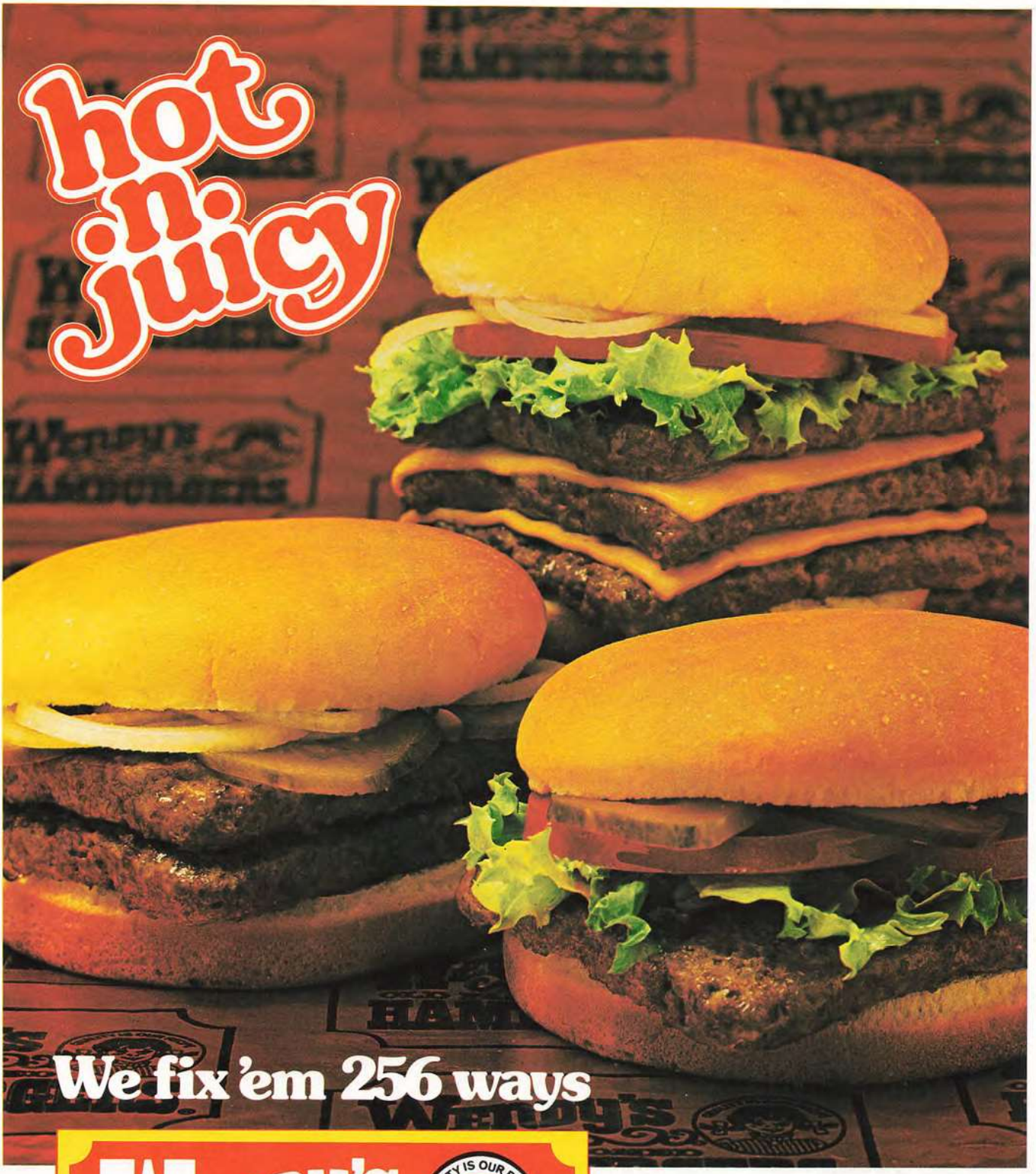
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Tim Travis:

Showing His Stuff On The Field

by Mike Bolton

It would be easier to find someone to say something bad about Santa Claus than to find someone to say something bad about Alabama tight end Tim Travis.

"To know him is to like him," a teammate says.

Why all the hullabaloo about, well, a blocker?

Ask someone who the fans might think would surely hate him — Bart Krout — the man fighting for his position.

"You can't help but like a guy that thinks you are supposed to show your stuff on the field instead of off it," Krout says. "Most people think he's shy because he doesn't talk a lot. But that's the way he is. He pays attention and then goes out and does it. He doesn't stand around and talk about it.

"He makes it tough on me, I'll guarantee you that. There is no sluffing for me at practice. He makes it pretty tough to loaf."

End coach Bobby Marks is the lucky man who gets to tutor the former Hueytown High star. He wishes he had more like him.

"I guess 'hard worker' is the best way to describe him," Marks said. "He does just what you ask him to do. He plays with intensity. He doesn't have the best ability of anybody who has been here, but he might have the most want-to.

"It is unbelievable how far he has come since he has been here. Rick Neal was one of the best we've had around here and Tim had to play behind him, but he didn't complain. He tried to learn from Rick and he's putting what he learned from Rick to work right now."

Another big Tim Travis fan is Danny Salmon. Now the assistant principal at Crumley's Chapel Elementary School, Salmon coached Travis at Hueytown High School. Salmon also coached at Birmingham's Huffman High School where he led the Vikings to several State playoff berths.

Besides Travis, Salmon has also recently put Steve Whitman, Allen Crumbley and Phil Allman at Alabama, as well as Tom Nettleman at Auburn.

Tim Travis isn't as big as some of the nation's tight ends, but he doesn't take a backseat to any of them in strength. Here he has a Georgia Tech defender out of the play. —Spectrum-Southeast Photo

"I've seen a lot of good athletes, but I never had one with the raw potential that Tim had," Salmon says. "He always wanted to learn and he tried his heart out. It hasn't surprised me that he has done so well at Alabama."

Now that you know what kind of person Tim Travis is, who is he?

He was born one of six brothers and three sisters to hard working and religious parents. He followed in their footsteps in both respects. A brother played football for Mississippi Valley State and it gave Travis the fever. After his junior year at Hueytown, he knew that he, too, might get the chance for college ball.

"I started getting a few letters and things after my junior year and it was exciting," Travis says, "I really had a hard decision to make. I thought a long time and made the right one."

The 6-1, 227-pounder came to Alabama as a freshman in 1976 and found the talented Rick Neal and Thad Flannagan in front of him. He saw enough action his freshman year to catch two passes for 20 yards, but his blocking earned him Freshman All-SEC honors.

His sophomore year saw him catch two passes for 26 yards, including a 21-yarder against Auburn and a five-yard touchdown reception against Louisville. Travis earned the Ray Perkins Most Improved Receiver Award the past two spring trainings, but it wasn't until this year that he has been able to shake the shadow of Neal, Flanagan and Ozzie Newsome — all of whom have played his position at one time or another.

"I learned a lot from all of those guys," Tim says. "I hated to have to play behind anybody, but they were all good ones and it wasn't anything to be mad about.

"People have always asked me if I wished I had gone somewhere else to play," Travis says. "They tell me if I had gone somewhere else I wouldn't be a blocker. They always say I would be catching passes and scoring touchdowns. The talk always sounds good, but I stop and think the guys they are comparing me to aren't on television, they aren't winning football games, they aren't in bowl games and they aren't winning national championships.

"A lot of guys are really happy with being the star and they really don't care about winning that much. I've seen a lot of them. I guess I was like that a little in high school — I mean I wanted us to win, but I wanted to catch a bunch of passes, too.

"It's a lot different around here. It didn't take long for me to want Rick and Ozzie and all of them to score even if they were in my position. When I was in there playing they wanted me to score, too. Some people might not think we're normal, but I like it.

"Bart (Krout) and I are like that now. I was praying for him to get his knee well last year when he was hurt. He always pats me on the back and wishes me luck."

Life for Travis hasn't always been the easiest. Besides competing with his host of brothers and sisters throughout life, he always had in the back of his mind the illness of his father. Suffering through numerous heart attacks, the elder Travis passed away September 29, the night of Alabama's game with Vanderbilt.

Tim came back the next weekend against Wichita State to play one of his best games ever. The performance, just one day before his father's funeral, was labeled by Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant as "one of the guttiest I have ever seen."

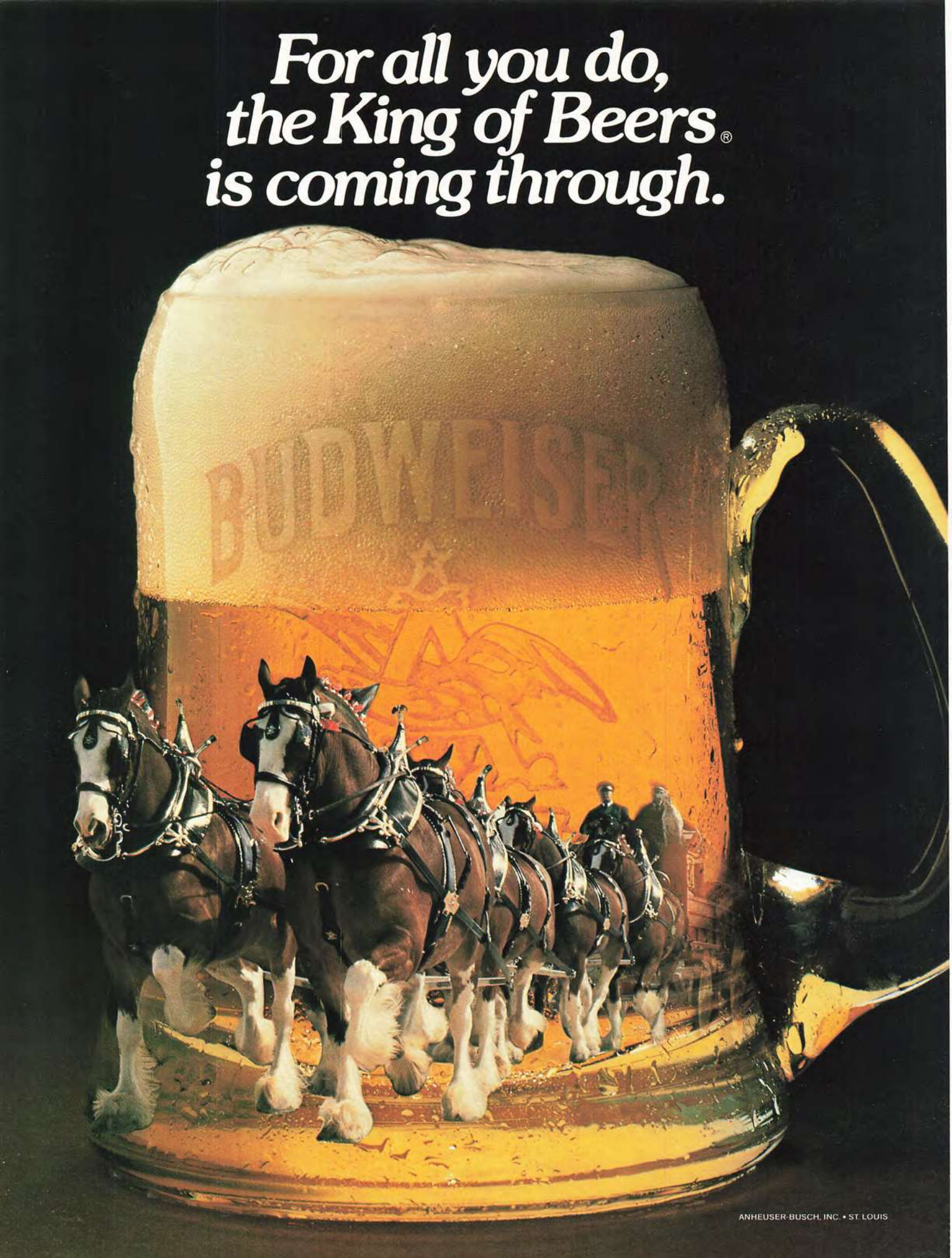
"I dedicated that game to my dad," Tim says "He meant a lot to all of us. He used to love to come and see us play. His death was really tough on all of us. The Lord really helped us through a tough time."

Travis will be the first to tell you that head Alabama coach Bryant has probably forgotten more football than most people know, but he feels he has gotten more out of his stay in Tuscaloosa than that.

"It's a life around here." Travis says. "You don't just learn about football. Coach Bryant coaches life. He tells you things and gets your attitude right. His philosophy always amazes the team because it makes so much sense. He tells you things that are easy, but you never thought of them before.

"Alabama football has been good to me. Just being a part of it is more than I could ask for. I've been places and seen things that I'd never seen if I hadn't come here. I've gotten an education and met some people that will be nice to know later.

"I've wished I could have played more sometimes, but that's part of it. There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never was anybody in front of me that shouldn't have been there and because of that I never got upset about it. Seeing the scoreboard light up and seeing us win always made up for it."

Many are shocked at Alabama's uncanny ability to keep on winning. That doesn't surprise Travis.

"It doesn't surprise me that we have won so many games," Tim says. "When you have so many fans it's hard to let them down. I think the fans are the big thing besides coach Bryant. I see them with Alabama written on everything and I see red and white cars and vans. It's good spirit. Our spirit helps us win.

"If we were a loser, their reaction would be a lot different. Winning makes them happy and makes us happy.

"Coach Bryant is the biggest reason we win, though," Travis adds. "He really gets your attention and he makes you want to do good to keep him from being mad. I don't like to see him mad, especially at me. I wish I didn't have to leave here at all. It will be a sad day for me."

Travis is currently majoring in Social Work, but that isn't what he wants to do when he gets out. Travis, like other Alabama players, would love nothing better than to spend a little time in pro football.

"That's what I'd love to do," he says. "I know I've got the weight and speed, but I could use a little more height. I'd love to be like Randy Grossman at Pittsburgh. He utilizes his speed and quickness and makes up for his lack of height.

"You know I'd really give it a good shot if I got the chance at the pros. It would be a dream come true." ★

A tight end must always be alert. Bama's Tim Travis has moved into the open field, looking for an opponent for a place to throw a block to help the Tide's runners reach the end zone. —Joel Barnes Photo

CRIMSON GALLERY

Squeeze Play

Woe be to the quarterback who takes too long to get rid of the football when Alabama has its pass rush on.

Florida quarterback Tyrone Young finds that if the Tide secondary men have his receivers covered then he's going to have to do something else with the football — in this case eat it.

There's no getting out of the grasp of Bama defenders on this play. E. J. Junior (39) rushed from his right end position, while Joe Beazley (85) was coming from his left tackle spot.

The result, a healthy setback for an opposing offense.

Alabama's defense is true teamwork. The Tide front men give a good rush, the Bama secondary players provide good coverage and Alabama opponents never know if the linebackers will be joining the rush troops or the defensive backs.

→

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

85

Married Players:

Sharing Their Love With Football

by Hank Brownstone

It was bitter cold and rainy at New Orleans on New Year's Day and people had to wonder about Sugar Bowl football fans who had the audacity to spend the night before sleeping in Winnebagos sitting in hotel parking lots.

Among that faithful band of University of Alabama followers was Lynn Boothe and her four-week-old son Heath.

You read it correctly, folks. At the tender age of *four weeks*, a loving mother figured it was time for her son to make his debut as a fan.

"Heath never knew he was there," Mrs. Vince Boothe says, "but someday he will understand that he was on hand when Alabama won a national championship. Was he any trouble? No, he spent most of the week asleep in his bassinet.

"I wanted to take him to the game, but my mother refused to allow it. She kept Heath in the Winnebago and let me go watch Vince play."

Such is the life of a football wife at Alabama—sacrificial, dedicated, and downright whacky at times.

But would Mrs. Boothe have it any other way?

"My dad (W. C. Majors) is a coach at Fairhope High School so this is the only life I have known," Mrs. Boothe says of the trials and tribulations of living with a football playing husband. "I would be terribly sad away from football.

"Would I like to see Vince become a professional player? Yeah, but I think that is a lifetime dream."

Lynn and Vince Boothe have been sharing their love for each other with football for almost a decade. They were high school sweethearts as her father developed Vince into a college prospect. A little more than three years ago, they decided to put their love under one roof. On Dec. 6, 1978, Heath arrived and gave them a little more to care about.

While Mrs. Boothe is a veteran football wife, she is only one of 11 in the current Crimson Tide family. The other married couples include Jim and Leslie Bunch, Buddy and Becky Aydelette, Mike and Jane Clements, John and Sue Cook, Barry and Susie Smith, Benny and Debbie Perrin, Buddy and Jenny Holt, Scott and Sherry Allision, Bobby and Linda Smith and Joey and Alene Robbins.

> "There are some things we would like to do . . . . But we have a lot of fun. . . ."
>
> —Mrs. Jim Bunch

The Aydelettes and Clements have been married a little over a year. The other eight couples were married in the last 10 months, which indicates Cupid likes to shoot his arrow at national champions.

Or, as senior Barry Smith said, "His supply of newlyweds must have been dwindling."

Another baby is due the Alabama family in March or April, when Mrs. Holt is scheduled to give senior tight end Buddy his first born. Of course, that will be after Buddy concludes his eligibility. Offensive guard Boothe, offensive tackle Bunch, offensive tackle Aydelette, snapper Barry Smith and defensive halfback Bobby Smith will also see their eligibility end after the Crimson Tide plays in a post-season bowl game.

To a man, married Alabama players say their wives have been beneficial to them. And while they admit pampering is good for bumps and bruises, they all say wives can push when needed, too.

Obviously, Mrs. Boothe is suited for the role.

"I think I might be tougher on Vince than some of the others are on their husbands, because of my football background," Mrs. Boothe says. "Like in the off-season, for instance, Vince might complain about going for a workout and think about skipping it. I push him out of the house and tell him to go to work. I have no way of knowing, but some of the other wives might not do that.

"I want Vince to get better in football. I push him a little every day."

Obviously there is very little social life for a football family, with school and practice time taking up days and food, clothing and shelter biting at the bank account.

"There are some things we would like to do, but are unable," Mrs. Boothe says. "But we have a lot of fun and have always made it. We save money from summer jobs and live on it during the school year. We would much rather be married and poor than single and living apart."

While they have been married a much shorter time, Mr. and Mrs. Bunch have experienced the same hardships. The lady of the house had the harder period of adjustment, according to the all-star tackle.

"Leslie has already made a lot of concessions," Jim Bunch says. "She used to buy a lot of new clothes, but not now. It is a little tough at times, but a lot of fun, too. But where there is a will, there is a way.

"Leslie and I were married on January 22, Super Bowl Sunday, and it was the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. She has helped me get my life organized. She has been a valuable asset to my football career."

When Jim Bunch asked for the hand of Leslie, it must have been a traumatic experience for her father, Col. W. L. Matthews of Valley Head. He had already had one too many experiences with Alabama football players.

As a student at Auburn University, he picked up a hitchhiking Alabama player on a weekend trip to Tuscaloosa, engaged in conversation and discovered his rider had escorted his wife, then an Alabama coed, to a homecoming dance.

Now, War Eagle blood running as strong as ever, he has to face the fact his daughter belongs to another Alabama player until death do them part.

"Her father, mother and brother all graduated from that other place in East Alabama (Auburn)," Bunch says. "It was strange going home with Leslie to meet them. I thought it might be tougher than it was. But there were no problems. In fact, I think her dad has a little more respect for Alabama now."

Mrs. Bunch agrees . . .

"When I took Jim home, it was weird, but now Dad likes the idea of me being married to him," Mrs. Bunch says. "Dad even took an Auburn tag off his car. Dad still hates to come to Tuscaloosa, though. He had a flat tire when he brought me to school and busted water hose on his first visit—but he and Jim get along fine.

"Jim definitely married the right girl, because we have a football family. My grandmother can call a play before a team leaves the huddle and I have a cousin, Ken Hammond, who plays at Vanderbilt. When we get together, we have a coaching clinic instead of a reunion.

The Bunchs might have had the most hastily called wedding ever staged in Tuscaloosa. It took most everybody by surprise.

"Jim was beating down my door on Sunday at 3 a.m., telling me he and Leslie were going to get married that afternoon," says Robbins, a junior offensive guard. "He slept his last night as a bachelor on my floor."

The Bunch wedding was called because Leslie could not find a roommate for the spring semester of school. They had planned to marry during summer—after meeting in October—but decided not to wait.

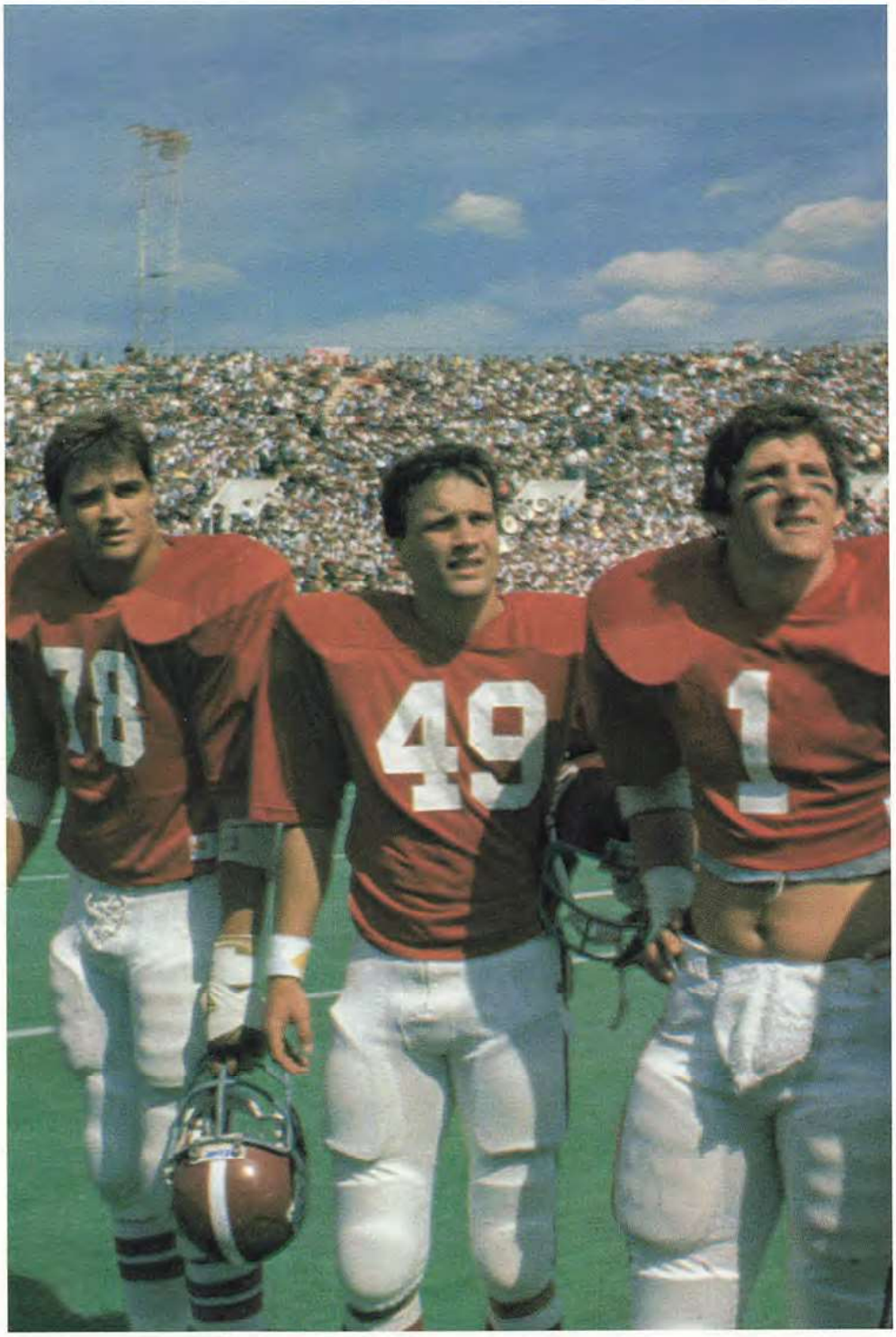
Who did Jim tell first?

"The day after we decided to get married, I went to tell coach Bryant about it," Jim says. "He asked if we had talked to our parents, told me marriage had helped some players and hurt others, and then said he had a meeting to go to. I followed him out of his office waiting for him to say yes or no. He just kept walking and never said a thing.

"A week later, I went back and told him we were married. He shook my hand, congratulated me and wished me luck."

Good graces or not, Jim and Leslie were unsure they would be able to go through their Sunday wedding. The courthouse in Tuscaloosa was closed, so Jim and Col. Matthews had to travel to Fayette on Saturday afternoon to get the license.

Rev. Ray Bean of University Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, meanwhile, stood



Married players are a part of college football. Against Wichita State this year all five Alabama captains were married. Here Buddy Aydelette (78), Bobby Smith (49) and Buddy Holt (1) watch the coin toss.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

ready, but wondering if he would miss seeing his Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl game.

"We had planned to get married at halftime," Jim says, "but Rev. Bean was afraid he would miss too much of the game. We had the ceremony just before kick off and watched the game during the reception.

"It was a wild three days, to say the least,"

Wild is also a good way to describe the experiences Mrs. Bunch has had trying to adjust to the life of a football wife. She admits there are days when Jim comes grumbling, several when he walks through the door aching from head to toe.

It is then that she works football wife magic—listening, advising, scolding and petting. It has worked wonders, so it seems, because Jim has returned to the form that made him an all-star blocker as a freshman and sophomore.

"It takes a lot of patience and understanding," Mrs. Bunch says. "And, of course, it helps to be positive about everything.

"I think it is the duty of a good football wife to be fresh and happy. After all, I never know what kind of day Jim has had at school and practice. Most days he comes home after being beaten on and yelled at at practice. It is on those days that he needs a lot of care.

"Jim is a good kid, but he has a lot of highs and lows. Like one day during preseason practice, for instance, he spent the entire scrimmage hitting against (6-foot-5, 264-pound Curtis) McGriff. Anybody knows that gets old. Other times, after good practices, he comes home laughing.

"I try to be positive in every way. Jim plays to the limit when somebody is behind him. A lot of times, I have to be that person."

Romance hit the Alabama team like a plague just after a 14-7 Sugar Bowl victory over Penn State. Summer was particularly blessed with ringing bells.

For coincidence, consider that the Allisons and Robbins were married on August 4 only 30 miles apart in Florida—the former at Titusville and the latter at Umatilla.

"I would have loved to have been at their wedding," Robbins says, "but I had something better to do."

If that comment indicates there is one big happy family involved, it should. After all, when good friends share common joys and frustrations, they tend to band together into one unit—in this case a common bond of matrimony and victorious Saturday afternoons. ★

While there's a different lifestyle for married football players off the field, the action on the field remains the same as players-husbands Jim Bunch (63) and Buddy Aydelette (78) show. —Joel Barnes Photo

FUTURE TIDE SCHEDULES

THE 1980 SEASON
Sept. 13—Georgia Tech, home
Sept. 20—Mississippi, away
Sept. 27—Vanderbilt, home
Oct. 4—Kentucky, home
Oct. 11—Rutgers, away
Oct. 18—Tennessee, away
Oct. 25—Southern Miss, home
Nov. 1—Mississippi State, away
Nov. 8—Louisiana State, home
Nov. 15—Notre Dame, home
Nov. 29—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1981 SEASON
Sept. 12—Georgia Tech, home
Sept. 19—Kentucky, away
Sept. 26—Vanderbilt, away
Oct. 3—Mississippi, home
Oct. 10—Southern Miss, home
Oct. 17—Tennessee, home
Oct. 24—Rutgers, home
Oct. 31—Mississippi State, home
Nov. 7—Louisiana State, away
Nov. 14—Penn State, away
Nov. 28—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1982 SEASON
Sept. 11—Georgia Tech, away
Sept. 18—Mississippi, away
Sept. 25—Vanderbilt, home
Oct. 2—Southern Miss, home
Oct. 9—Penn State, home
Oct. 16—Tennessee, away
Oct. 23—Cincinnati, home
Oct. 30—Mississippi State, away
Nov. 6—Louisiana State, home
Nov. 20—Rutgers, away
Nov. 27—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1983 SEASON
Sept. 10—Georgia Tech, away
Sept. 17—Mississippi, home
Sept. 24—Vanderbilt, away
Oct. 1—Memphis State, home
Oct. 8—Penn State, away
Oct. 15—Tennessee, home
Oct. 22—Boston College, home
Oct. 29—Mississippi State, home
Nov. 5—Louisiana State, away
Nov. 12—Southern Miss, home
Nov. 26—Auburn, Birmingham

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

1933 **ALABAMA** (5-0-1)
1934 **ALABAMA** (7-0-0)
Tulane (8-0-0)
1935 L. S. U. (5-0-0)
1936 L. S. U. (6-0-0)
1937 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
1938 Tennessee (7-0-0)
1939 Tennessee (6-0-0)
Georgia Tech (6-0-0)
Tulane (5-0-0)
1940 Tennessee (5-0-0)
1941 Miss. State (4-0-1)
1942 Georgia (6-1-0)
1943 Georgia Tech (3-0-0)
1944 Georgia Tech (4-0-0)
1945 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
1946 Georgia (5-0-0)
Tennessee (5-0-0)
1947 Mississippi (6-1-0)
1948 Georgia (6-0-0)
1949 Tulane (5-1-0)
1950 Kentucky (5-1-0)
1951 Georgia Tech (7-0-0)
Tennessee (5-0-0)
1952 Georgia Tech (6-0-0)
1953 **ALABAMA** (4-0-3)
1954 Mississippi (5-0-0)
1955 Mississippi (5-1-0)
1956 Tennessee (6-0-0)
1957 Auburn (7-0-0)
1958 L. S. U. (6-0-0)
1959 Georgia (7-0-0)
1960 Mississippi (5-0-1)
1961 **ALABAMA** (7-0-3)
L. S. U. (6-0-0)
1962 Mississippi (6-0-0)
1963 Mississippi (5-0-1)
1964 **ALABAMA** (8-0-0)
1965 **ALABAMA** (6-1-1)
1966 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
Georgia (6-0-0)
1967 Tennessee (6-0-0)
1968 Georgia (5-0-1)
1969 Tennessee (5-1-0)
1970 L. S. U. (5-0-0)
1971 **ALABAMA** (7-0-0)
1972 **ALABAMA** (7-1-0)
1973 **ALABAMA** (8-0-0)
1974 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
1975 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
1976 Georgia (5-1-0)
1977 **ALABAMA** (7-0-0)
1978 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)

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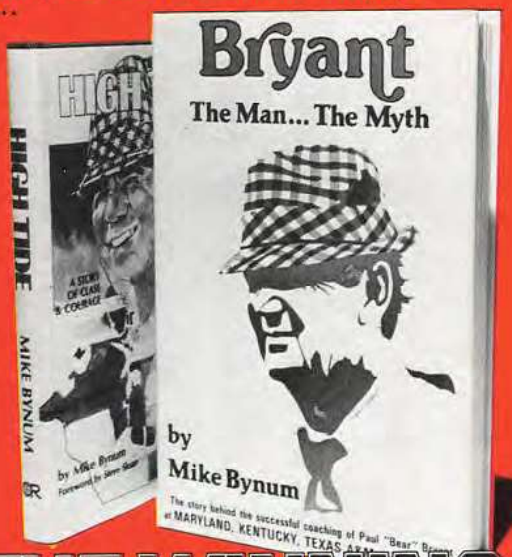

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SCOUTING REPORT

AUBURN TIGERS

by Kirk McNair

A pro scout in Tuscaloosa remarked recently that Auburn had two of the finest looking running backs he had ever seen. Big news, you say. Everyone knows about James Brooks and Joe Cribbs, considered by many to be the best two runners on one team in the nation. But, did you know about Chester Willis and George Peoples? They never get to play because they are behind Cribbs and Brooks, but they are the two that the pro scout was talking about.

Auburn hasn't been able to rest its stars much this year because the defense has not been as impressive as the offense. As a result the Tigers have had to outscore some opponents to get wins, and in a few cases have come up just short.

Brooks and Cribbs aren't all of the Auburn offense, but they are tremendous blocks upon which to build. No doubt the Alabama staff has wished that Cribbs had been a little bigger in high school as he wanted to go with the Tide at the time.

Auburn head coach Doug Barfield, now in his fourth year and with a full team of his recruits, has moved above the .500 mark in winning with this season's performance. His last two teams have finished third in the Southeastern Conference. He has to be given credit for having done a fine job, particularly considering that he is the only major college coach who must compete in the same state with coach Bryant. He has also suffered under the penalty of NCAA investigation and indictment.

Although the best team almost always wins the Alabama-Auburn game, it is almost always a hard-fought battle to the end.

The Tigers have been nationally-ranked most of the year and probably missed a top ten berth by one touchdown when Auburn went down to Wake Forest. The Tigers have also been among the nation's

Joe Cribbs, a senior, is one of two Auburn backs who have cracked the 1,000-yard barrier this season (the other is James Brooks). The Tigers' backfield is considered to be the most explosive in the nation.

offense leaders all year with Cribbs and Brooks individually among the nation's best.

It was no surprise that Auburn was improved this year. Coach Barfield said before the season began that his team was bigger, better and more experienced than ever before.

Here's looking at the personnel:

OFFENSE

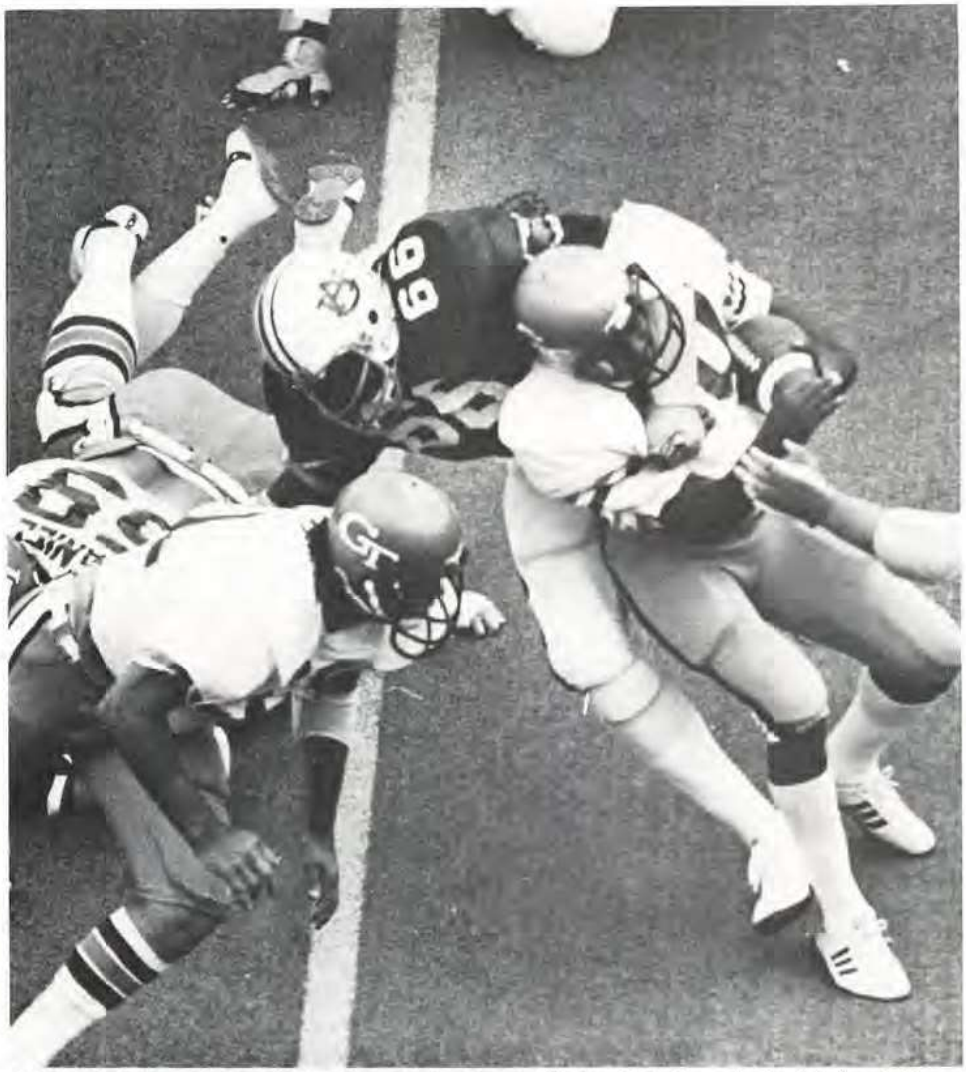
Because of a talented backfield, Auburn does not stick with their basic I-formation offense at all times. Their tremendous running backs, Joe Cribbs and James Brooks, are both tailbacks, but the War Eagles will at times use both of them in the backfield, with Cribbs manning the fullback spot. Auburn will also use a splitback-I, with Cribbs lining up on the tight end side and Brooks on the split end side.

Whatever the offensive look, the important men are Cribbs and Brooks. Cribbs (5-10, 190) was Auburn's leading rusher last season, rolling up 1205 yards on 253 carries and scoring 16 touchdowns. He has continued to pile up the yardage this season, and scored nine touchdowns in Auburn's first five games. Brooks, meanwhile, was being billed as the star a year ago. He was the starting tailback, and Cribbs was second-team, and Brooks exploded out of the starting blocks like a Heisman Trophy candidate. He was leading the nation in rushing and all-purpose running when he sustained a broken foot in Auburn's fourth game of the year, and he missed the rest of the season, opening the way for Cribbs' path to stardom. This year, both Cribbs and Brooks are averaging better than six yards a carry, giving the Tigers a rushing attack to be feared.

The man who engineers this explosive offense is senior quarterback Charlie Trotman (5-11, 176). He suffered a bruised knee earlier in the season against North Carolina State, but played sparingly the next week against Vanderbilt, leading the Tigers to four touchdowns and a field goal in the five possessions he played.

Last year Trotman completed 53 of 111 passes for 760 yards and three touchdowns, and gained 345 yards rushing, making him a double-treat to contend with. His backup at quarterback is sophomore Charles Thomas (6-1, 192), a free safety a year ago who was moved to quarterback during spring practice.

Auburn's top three receivers from a year ago return, led by senior Mark Robbins (6-4, 190) at flanker. Robbins caught 13 passes last year for 259 yards, for a healthy 19.9 years per catch. The starter at split end is little senior Rusty Byrd (5-9, 159), who led the War Eagles in receptions last year with 14. Also returning at flanker to provide depth is junior Byron Franklin (6-0, 179), who caught 10 passes for 213 yards last season.



Auburn defensive tackle Frank Warren is a mean hombre, as this Georgia Tech running back finds out. Warren missed some playing time earlier, but is now back fullspeed and the Auburn defense is stopping people.

The Tigers have a solid offensive line for Trotman and his coharts to operate behind, anchored by a tremendous left side. At left tackle is junior George Stephenson (6-4, 244), a starter every game last year at left guard. Moving into the left guard spot this year is junior Jim Skuthan (6-3, 260), the starter last season at right guard. Both are being touted as All-SEC candidates this season.

At center is senior Mark Clement (6-0, 222), a returning starter. The right side of the line will be manned by junior Bill Grisham (6-1, 219) at guard and junior Claude Mathews (6-2, 245) at tackle. The tight end position will be handled by a threesome: senior Foster Christy (6-2, 220), senior Mike Locklear (6-3, 218) and junior Chat Chessher (6-3, 217). Christy and Chessher are the better blockers, while Locklear is sure-handed and fleet in the open field.

DEFENSE

This has been the weak sister for the Tigers this year and most of the blame can be laid to injuries. Among those lost for the season are starting right tackle Marshall Riley, right cornerback Jerry Beasley and linebacker Ricky Westbrook. Additional injuries have depleted the depth at linebacker, where senior Harris Rabren (6-2, 225) has seen limited action because of a strained knee and sophomore Danny Skutack (6-1, 200) has missed games due to a broken leg. As a result, the Tigers gave up 101 points during a three-game period early this season.

The Tigers operate with a five-man defensive front, with the most conspicuous member being junior left tackle Frank Warren (6-5, 267). He is Auburn's leading tackler among the linemen, despite the fact that most teams have been running away from Warren's side of the field. Warren was first team All-SEC last year, and is being touted as an All-American this season.

The right tackle is sophomore Edmund Nelson (6-2, 232), who was slated to start

at nose guard but moved to tackle when Riley was injured. Junior Marvin Williams (5-11, 253) has moved into the starting nose guard position.

The defensive ends will be senior Ken Hardy (6-1, 222) and redshirt freshman Dan Dickerson (6-3, 216). Hardy started a few games last year, while Dickerson outplayed returning starter junior Zac Hardy (6-2, 219) to earn the other starting spot.

At linebacker the Tigers have one of the best in the conference in senior Freddie Smith (5-11, 210). Smith was slowed by a knee injury last season after having been named SEC Freshman of the Year and Sophomore of the Year in his first two seasons.

Smith is healthy this season, and he is taking his year of inactivity out on opposing running backs. In Auburn's first five games he made 63 tackles and 29 assists, leading the team by a wide margin.

The other starting linebacker should be Rabren, whose knee has been mending steadily. He was Auburn's second-leading tackler last season with 63 tackles and 47 assists, and he was also second in interceptions with four.

The secondary will be manned by sophomores Bob Harris (6-1, 204) and Johnny Green (5-11, 185) at cornerbacks, with junior Clifford Toney (5-11, 182) at strong safety and senior James McKinney (5-11, 194) at free safety.

KICKING GAME

Auburn has one of the soundest kicking games in the conference. The place kicker is senior Jorge Portela, a first-team All-SEC selection in 1977. During that year he set an SEC record for field goals in a game with five. He holds the SEC record for career field goals.

Handling the punting duties is senior Skip Johnston, who averaged 42.6 yards per kick last season, second in the SEC.

With Cribbs handling punt returns and Brooks taking care of the kickoff returns, Auburn is a threat to score on any kick, Brooks is averaging 29 yards per kickoff return this season.

THE SERIES

Bama has won six games in a row, dating back to the startling 17-16 game of 1972, and now holds a 25-17-1 margin in this series. As most everyone knows, Alabama and Auburn broke off relations following the 1907 game and did not resume until 1948. Since then the game has been played annually and is one of the nation's top attractions. ★

YOU'RE THE COACH

As everyone knows, Auburn brings one of the nation's most explosive rushing teams to face Alabama's stingy defensive unit. Early Auburn had defensive problems, owing primarily to key injuries, but in the last three games the Tigers have been effective stoppers. Although Auburn has given up lots of yardage, almost 3,900 total yards, the Tigers have not given up that many points, an indication that Auburn is tough where Bama has found the going roughest—near the goalline.

1979 Cumulative Statistics

	BAMA	AU
TEAM OFFENSE		
Rushes attempted	696	535
Yards gained	3701	3351
Yards lost	223	200
Net yards gained	3478	3151
Avg. gain per rush	4.9	5.9
Touchdowns	36	31
Passes attempted	104	130
Passes completed	50	61
Passes intercepted	8	7
Percentage	.481	.469
Total yards	843	836
Touchdowns	5	7
Passes caught	50	61
Total yards	843	836
Avg. gain per catch	16.9	13.7
Touchdowns	5	7
TEAM DEFENSE		
Rushes attempted	349	491
Yards gained	1275	2172
Yards lost	282	380
Net yards gained	993	1792
Touchdowns	2	18
Passes attempted	200	267
Passes completed	73	147
Passes intercepted	25	15
Percentage	.365	.551
Total yards	739	2094
Touchdowns	3	9
PUNTING		
Number	38	47
Yards	1432	1930
Avg.	37.7	41.1
Longest	70	
FUMBLES/LOST	35/14	28/15
PENALTIES/ YARDS	40/313	69/677

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSE

Rushing	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
(BAMA) Shealy	128	692	5.4	9	64
(BAMA) Whitman	102	546	4.9	3	22
(BAMA) Ogilvie	81	447	5.5	9	26
(BAMA) Jacobs	71	438	6.2	3	73
(AUB) Brooks	145	1153	8.0	10	79
(AUB) Cribbs	184	1027	5.6	14	
(AUB) Thomas	55	323	5.9	3	
(AUB) Trotman	69	312	4.5	2	

Passing	PA	PC	PI	YDS	%	TD
(BAMA) Shealy	75	40	5	653	.537	3
(BAMA) Jacobs	22	9	2	177	.409	2
(AUB) Trotman	113	53	6	754	.469	6
(AUB) Thomas	12	6	1	81	.500	1

Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Pugh	20	357	17.8	1
(BAMA) Travis	7	150	21.4	2
(BAMA) Clark	5	79	15.8	0
(BAMA) Marks	4	118	29.5	1
(AUB) Franklin	18	298	16.6	3
(AUB) Robbins	15	236	15.7	1
(AUB) Byrd	10	148	14.8	0
(AUB) Cribbs	8	75	9.4	0

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

Tackles	Solo	Assisted	Total
(BAMA) Boyd	55	21	76
(BAMA) Scott	40	7	47
(BAMA) Junior	36	10	46
(BAMA) Hamilton	23	23	46
(BAMA) R. Jones	29	15	44

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Wilcox	4	15	3.7	0
(BAMA) Tucker	4	15	3.7	0
(BAMA) R. Jones	3	18	6.0	0
(BAMA) McNeal	3	12	4.0	0
(BAMA) 10 others	11	113	10.3	1
(AUB) McKinney	4	67	16.8	0
(AUB) Luke	2	36	18.0	0
(AUB) Harris	2	10	5.0	0

Prep Prospects:

Stars Of The Future

by Eddie Lee

University of Alabama football coaches are generally considered a cut or two above the average, but for the past few months — and for the next few — they have the same problems of all other college coaches. Winning football games, sure, but also searching, finding, and convincing the top prep football players in the nation that Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is where they should spend the next four years.

The *crem de la crem* of the nation's high school football players have the size, speed and ability to continue the winning tradition of the Crimson Tide. A large number of the class of '84 took time to answer a poll for 'BAMA. Here's a brief look at the top young football players, many of whom will begin signing letters-of-intent as early as December 8 when the Southeastern Conference commitments are made:

From Alabama —

Linemen, Linebackers

Mike Adcock, 6-2, 240, Huntsville Johnson, is an offensive and defensive tackle who runs a 4.8 40 and bench presses 385. He'll earn his fourth prep football letter this year.

Marcus Hill, 6-2, 205, Dothan, is a linebacker who has served as captain of both his football and basketball teams. He's a kick blocking specialist, having averaged four per year.

Thomas Hubbard, 6-1, 190, Birmingham Minor, is the younger brother of former Tide star Colenzo Hubbard. The linebacker was named Jefferson County Lineman of the Year last year as a junior. He's also an outstanding prep wrestler.

Tom McCrary, 6-5, 248, Scottsboro, is a lineman who can bench press 375

Linnie Patrick of Walker High School in Jasper is considered to be one of the greatest running backs ever to play prep football in Alabama.

—Daily Mountain Eagle Photo

Left, Mike Gambrell of Slidell High School in Slidell, Louisiana, is an outstanding tackle. Right, Jesse Bendross of Miramar High School in Hollywood, Florida, is rated among the nation's best receivers.

—Daily Sentry-News Photo

pounds. He's also a wrestler and track weight man. He lists John Hannah and Mike Brock as his favorite athletes.

Adam Schreiber, 6-3, 225, Huntsville, runs the 40 in 4.9 and bench presses over 300 pounds. He's a center on offense, a tackle on defense.

Alan Underwood, 6-4, 245, Tuscumbia Deshler, is a tight end on offense, tackle on defense. He runs a 4.8 40, bench presses 310 and lists John Hannah as his favorite pro athlete, Jim Bunch as his favorite college athlete. He has won three letters each in football and wrestling and served as captain of both teams. He was state 3A wrestling champion in heavyweight.

Doug Vickers, 6-2½, 235, Enterprise, is generally considered to be the state's top lineman. He runs a 5.2 40, bench presses 365 and lists John Hannah as his favorite pro athlete, Dwight Stephenson as his favorite college athlete.

Backs, Ends

Stevie Booker, 6-1, 203, Huntsville, is a 4.5 man in the 40 and can bench press over 300 pounds. He's a fullback and linebacker. Last year he rushed for 134 yards in one game.

Paul Fields, 6-0, 188, Gardendale, missed the last half of the season with an arm injury, but has been impressive over the past two season. He's earned letters in baseball and basketball as well as football. Paul runs a 4.6 40 and can bench press 310 pounds. He lists Steadman Shealy as his favorite college athlete.

Joey Jones, 5-10, 162, Mobile Murphy, is an all-around athlete. An end in football, he has also lettered in baseball, basketball and track. His top one-game performance was 185 yards in pass receptions, over 100 yards in kick returns and two touchdowns.

Walter Lewis, 6-0, 185, Brewton, has been excelling at football for a long time. Now a top quarterback, in 1970 he won the national Punt, Pass and Kick contest. In 1970 he was eight years old. He's won prep letters in baseball, basketball and track as well as football. Although he's known primarily as a quarterback, in last year's state playoffs he had a one-game performance of 18 tackles. As a punter he averages over 40 yards per kick.

Andy Martin, 6-3, 205, Muscle Shoals, is an outstanding quarterback. He runs a 4.7 40 and can bench press over 300 pounds. He is an accomplished runner and passer, also plays basketball.

Linny Patrick, 5-10, 165, Walker High School, Jasper, is ranked as high as second when the nation's top prep prospects are mentioned. The outstanding running back was named Alabama's top performer as a junior as he has averaged about 200 yards per game rushing the past two years. He is being recruited by virtually every football power and is one of the outstanding prospects ever to play in Alabama.

Out of state —

Linemen, Linebackers

John David Angelo, 6-1, 210, Youngstown, Ohio is a center who has three brothers who have played major college football. He's captain of this year's Chaney High team, wants to major in business and play for the best football team in the country. He also wants to see his cousin's picture on the cover of 'BAMA. His cousin is Gary DeNiro.

Jeff Autry, Covington, Georgia, is a 6-3, 210-pound two-way performer, and end-linebacker on defense, tackle on offense. He also plays baseball.

Wendelle Battle, Washington, D.C., is 6-4, 260 and being sought by virtually every major football school. He runs a 5.0 40, bench presses 310 pounds.

Brian Blados, 6-6, 265, Arlington, Virginia, plays tackle on both offense and defense. He's also a weightman in track. Brian has served as captain of his football team this year.

Dante Bramblett, 6-2½, 210, Morrow, Georgia, is a linebacker and punter. In his top game he had 16 tackles, a pass interception, caused and recovered a fumble and averaged 40 yards per punt as his Forest Park team upset Newnan, 7-0. His favorite college athlete is Randy Scott. He runs a 4.8 40, bench presses 350. Dante is team captain.

Allen "Sycamore" Campbell, 6-5, 225, Perry, Florida, is a tight end, linebacker and defensive end. His brother, Johnny, plays football for Florida A&M. He also has won letters in basketball and track. He runs a 4.9 40, bench presses 295.

Scott Carraher, 6-5, 225, Emmaus, Pennsylvania, is an offensive tackle, defensive end. He's being sought by virtually every major football school.

Greg Crawford, 6-4, 245, Fairfax, Virginia, is a defensive tackle for W. T. Woodson High School. His brother, William, is a football player at North Carolina. He also participated in track and wrestling.

Philip Ebinger, 6-3, 223, Atlanta, Georgia, is a center and defensive tackle. His father, Elbert, played football at Ohio State in the mid-1950's. He plans to major in pre-med.

Joe Ellis, 6-5, 258, Toms River, New Jersey, is a tackle on offense and defense. His brother, William, was formerly a Maryland wrestler. Joe has also lettered in wrestling and track and is his team's football captain. He runs a 4.9 40, bench presses 310.

Landy Ewings, 6-3, 240, Tifton, Georgia, is a tight end on offense, tackle on defense. In addition to being an outstanding football player (and captain of his team), Landy is a weightman in track and plays basketball. He runs a 4.9 40, bench presses 365.

Ronnie Fazio, 6-5, 225, Willingboro, New Jersey, is a tight end on offense, end on defense. He is being sought by the cream of the crop of football schools, plans to major in pre-dentistry. He is football captain, also plays basketball and is a weightman in track. He is also his team's placekicker. He runs a 4.8 40, bench presses 280.

Mike Gambrell, 6-5, 245, Slidell, Louisiana, is a tackle of offense, tackle and noseguard on defense. This year he will earn his fourth football letter and also has three in baseball and one each in basketball and track (shot put). He runs a 5.0 40, bench presses 340.

Chet Gatewood, 6-5, Raymond, Mississippi, is an offensive and defensive tackle who lists Major Ogilvie as his favorite player. In addition to football he is a track weightman.

Perry Hockaday, 6-3, Pascagoula, Mississippi, also lists Major Ogilvie as his favorite athlete. He runs a 4.8 40. Perry also plays baseball. He plans to major in biology.

Mark "Ajax" Jackson, 6-4, 250, Houston, Texas, is an offensive guard, defensive tackle. He's earned three football letters, three basketball letters and a track letter. He runs a 5.0 40, bench presses 325.

Thad Jenkins, 6-3, 205, Tampa, Florida, is a linebacker who runs a 4.8 40 and bench presses over 300 pounds. He also plays basketball. Thad plans to major in accounting.

Jerry Lambert, 6-3, 225, Tampa, Florida, is a linebacker whose name could ring a bell with Bama fans. His father, Jerry, played football at Alabama 1952-56. He's a three-year football starter and captain and has won letters in baseball and football. He runs a 4.9 40, bench presses 325. Most of his family lives in Alabama and are Bama fans.

Red Lyles, 6-3, 210, Miami, Florida, is a defensive end and tight end for former Bama player and assistant coach Christ Vagotis. He runs a 4.6 40, bench presses 270. He also plays basketball and is a high jumper in track.

Todd Milton, 6-1½, 267, Albany, Georgia, is an offensive tackle and defensive noseguard, but has also been pressed into duty at fullback. He comes from a family of athletes. His father played football at Georgia Tech, then transferred to Oglethorpe and was captain of both the baseball and basketball teams. His brother Chip participated in track at Georgia, while brother Jay is a footballer at Auburn. His sister, Missie, plays basketball for powerful Valdosta State. He runs a 4.8 40, bench presses 400.

Glenn Phillips, 6-5½, 245, Roanoke, Virginia, plays tackle both ways. He runs a 4.9 40, bench presses 300 and is captain of his team.

Doug Vickers of Enterprise is a two-way tackle who is considered among the top linemen in Alabama prep circles.

—Enterprise Ledger Photo

Jim Scherer, 6-4½, 230, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is a linebacker and running back who plans to major in music composition. He runs a 4.6 40, bench presses 300 and is considering some of the nation's top football schools, Tennessee not among them. He also participates in basketball and track and finished third in the national AAU championships in Nebraska last summer.

Tom Thurson, 6-2½, 217, Jacksonville, Florida, is an offensive tackle and linebacker. His father played football at Marquette. He runs a 4.8 40, bench presses 350. He is captain of his team. He once had 17 tackles, three assists and a pass broken up in one game.

Mike Vaccarella, 6-4, 240, Stuart, Florida, is a defensive tackle who lists Bob Baumhower as his favorite professional athlete. He has also won a wrestling letter. He runs a 5.1 40, bench presses 375.

Carlton Walker, 6-5, 250, Tampa, Florida, is a guard and tackle on offense, end on defense. He lists Major Ogilvie as his favorite college athlete. He's also a top wrestler and has served as captain of both football and wrestling teams. He plans to major in business.

Mike White, 6-3, 225, Decatur, Georgia, is a center and defensive tackle. Dwight Stephenson is his favorite college athlete. He runs a 4.9 40, bench presses 290 and plays baseball as well as football.

Lloyd Wofford, 6-3, 215, Atlanta, Georgia, is an offensive tackle and linebacker. He lists Major Ogilvie as his favorite college athlete, runs a 4.6 40 and bench presses 355. He has also won letters in track and wrestling.

Greg White, 6-3, 240, Stuart, Florida, is a tackle on offense, tackle and noseguard on defense. He runs a 4.8 40, bench presses 365. He plans to major in law. In addition to football be has earned letters in wrestling and track. He once had 15 tackles, including two sacks in a game.

Backs, Ends

Jesse Bendross, 6-1, 181, Miramar, Florida, is considered to be one of the top two receivers in the nation. He has averaged over 18 yards per pass reception this year and also has several interceptions from his defensive backfield position and has also returned a punt for a touchdown. He is very close to his former teammate, Bama freshman Jeff Fagan.

John Bond, 6-4, Valdosta, Georgia, is an outstanding quarterback who moved to that position from split end after the senior quarterback was injured. He is strong both as a runner and passer with his top game a 266-yard, three-touchdown performance this year. He runs a 4.6 40, bench presses 300.

Bubba Britton, 6-3, 215, Richmond, Virginia, is a fullback-linebacker who runs a 4.7 40, bench presses 230. His top game was 131 yards and one touchdown rushing and 18 tackles.

Paul Carruth, 6-2, 195, Summit, Mississippi, is a quarterback and running back on offense and a defensive back. His top game saw him rush for 287 yards and five touchdowns. This year's homecoming game saw him go over the 1,000 yard and 100 point marks, while his sister, Carla, was named homecoming queen. He runs a 4.5 40, bench presses 240.

Evan "Coop" Cooper, 6-0, 170, Miami, Florida, is a defensive back for former Tide player Christ Vagotis. He runs a 4.6 40, bench presses 230. His top game saw him intercept two passes and recover a fumble.

Joe "Tweet" Cozart, 6-0, 170, Sweetwater, Tennessee, is a quarterback and free safety. He's also an exceptional punter with the longest in Tennessee history, 82 yards. He runs a 4.7 40, bench presses 210. He's won three letters in football, two in basketball.

Billy Davis, 6-4, 190, Alexandria, Virginia, is a split end and free safety who runs a 4.5 40. He's being sought by most of the nation's top football schools. He's won letters in baseball and basketball as well as football and is captain of this year's team. He has won two games for his team, one with a fumble return of 70 yards for the winning score, one with a punt return of 70 yards for the winning touchdown.

Shaun Gayle, 6-0, Hampton, Virginia, is a halfback, fullback, tight end and linebacker. His brother, Jimmy Gayle, is starting fullback at Ohio State as a sophomore. In addition to football, he has won letters in track and basketball. His top one-game performance was a two-touchdown, 16-tackle game. He plans to major in sports medicine.

Marcus Hackett, 6-1, 180, Orange, New Jersey, is a wide receiver whose father was captain at Daniel Payne College in Birmingham 1959-61. He runs a 4.5 40, bench presses 200. Two years ago his teams won state championships in football and basketball. He's earned three letters in basketball, two in football and track and one in baseball. He is an outstanding punt return man as well as wide receiver. He plans to major in business.

Charles Kerr, 6-5, 219, Tampa, Florida, is a free safety for H. B. Plant High School. His favorite college athlete is Bama's Thomas Boyd. Charles runs a 4.6 40 and bench presses 310. He has been contacted by every major college in football, most top basketball colleges. Prior to this year he has won two letters each in football and basketball and been captain of both teams. He's used to winning, his teams having won over eight games per year for the last three years. No opponent managed a touchdown pass is almost two years with Charley at safety. His uncle, Walt Bingham, is senior editor of *Sports Illustrated*.

Lance McIlhenny, 6-0, 187, Dallas, Texas, is a quarterback whose father, Don, was a running back at SMU and later with the Green Bay Packers. While at Green Bay his father's teammates included former Bama quarterback (now Green Bay head coach) Bart Starr and Alton Romine, father of Tide freshman Merv Romine. Lance's older brother, Lott, is now at SMU. Lance runs a 4.7 40, bench presses 310. He's a two-year football captain.

Anthony Parete, 6-0, 187, Jacksonville, Florida, is a quarterback and safety. His father was a scholarshipped football player at Purdue in 1951. He runs a 4.6 40, bench presses 255 and lists Steadman Shealy as his favorite college player. He is a two-year football captain and three-year letterman and has also won letters in baseball.

Edgar Pickett, 6-2, 215, Lexington, North Carolina, is a running back and linebacker. He is working on his fourth prep football letter and has also won two track letters. His top one-game performance saw him rush for 283 yards and four touchdowns.

Bill Pierce, 6-1, 195, Crossett, Arkansas, is a quarterback and strong safety who has had knee surgery, but nevertheless is an outstanding prospect. Both his father and his brother played college football. He runs a 4.7 40, bench presses 270. He won the Arkansas state decathlon championship, perhaps the most grueling event in athletics. He led his team to the state championship as a junior. He won three letters in football and has won two in basketball, two in track and plays summer baseball.

Jimmy Watts, 6-1½, 200, Gulf Breeze, Florida, is a running back and free safety who comes from an athletic background. His father played at Wichita, his grandfathers at Kansas State. He runs a 4.7 40, bench presses 260. He set a school record with 37 receptions as a freshman. He has won four football letters, three in basketball and one in track and been captain of his football and basketball teams.

These are not all of the nation's top performers. However, these prep stars are all considering Alabama and responded to the 'BAMA request for information. Almost all can be expected to sign with someone.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

DATE	ALABAMA	AUBURN	FLORIDA	GEORGIA	KENTUCKY
Sept. 8	30 at Georgia Tech 6				
Sept. 15		26 KANSAS STATE 18	10 at Houston 14	21 WAKE FOREST 22	14 MIAMI (OH.) 15
Sept. 22	45 BAYLOR (B)* 0	31 S. MISS 9	7 GEORGIA TECH 7	7 at Clemson 12	10 at Indiana 18
Sept. 29	66 at Vanderbilt 3	17 at Tennessee 35	10 at Miss. State 24	20 S. CAROLINA 27	14 MARYLAND 7
Oct. 6	38 WICHITA STATE (T) 0	44 N.C. STATE 31	3 at LSU 20	24 at Ole Miss 21	6 at W. Virginia 10
Oct. 13	40 at Florida 0	52 VANDERBILT 35	0 ALABAMA 40	21 LSU 14	14 OLE MISS 3
Oct. 20	27 TENNESSEE (B) 17	38 at Georgia Tech 14		31 at Vanderbilt 10	19 at LSU 23
Oct. 27	31 VIRGINIA TECH (T) 7	38 at Wake Forest 42	10 TULSA 20	20 KENTUCKY 6	6 at Georgia 20
Nov. 3	24 MISSISSIPPI ST. (T) 7	19 FLORIDA 13	13 at Auburn 19	0 VIRGINIA 31	20 BOWLING GR 14
Nov. 10	3 at LSU 0	14 MISSISSIPPI ST 3	10 GEORGIA (J)** 33	33 at Florida (J)** 10	29 at Vanderbilt 10
Nov. 17	30 MIAMI (T) 0	33 at Georgia 13	3 KENTUCKY 31	13 AUBURN 33	31 at Florida 3
Nov. 24			FLA. STATE		TENNESSEE
Dec. 1	AUBURN (B)	ALABAMA (B)	at Miami	at Georgia Tech	

DATE	LSU	OLE MISS	MISS. STATE	TENNESSEE	VANDERBILT
Sept. 8			13 MEMPHIS ST. (J)# 14		
Sept. 15	44 at Colorado 0	38 at Memphis St. 34		28 at Boston College 16	13 at Indiana 44
Sept. 22	47 RICE 3	7 MISSOURI (J)¢ 33	14 at Maryland 35	51 UTAH 18	14 CITADEL 27
Sept. 29	12 SOUTHERN CAL 17	8 S. MISS. (J) 38	24 FLORIDA (J) 10	35 AUBURN 17	3 ALABAMA 66
Oct. 6	20 FLORIDA 3	21 GEORGIA (O) 24	28 TENNESSEE (M) 9	9 at Miss. St. (M) 9	14 at Tulane 42
Oct. 13	14 at Georgia 21	3 at Kentucky 14	6 at Florida St. 17	31 GEORGIA TECH 0	35 at Auburn 52
Oct. 20	23 KENTUCKY 19	14 at S. Carolina 21	48 MARSHALL (S) 0	17 at Alabama (B) 27	10 GEORGIA 31
Oct. 27	19 FLORIDA STATE 24	63 VANDERBILT (O) 28	7 S. MISS. (S) 21		28 at Ole Miss (O) 63
Nov. 3	28 at Ole Miss 24	24 LSU (J) 28	7 at Alabama (T) 24	7 RUTGERS 13	13 MEMPHIS ST. 3
Nov. 10	0 ALABAMA 3	15 at Tulane 49	3 at Auburn 14	40 NOTRE DAME 18	10 KENTUCKY 29
Nov. 17	21 MISSISSIPPI ST. 3	44 TENNESSEE (J) 20	3 at LSU 21	20 at Ole Miss (J) 44	29 at Air Force 30
Nov. 24	at Tulane	at Miss. St. (J)	OLE MISS (J)	at Kentucky	
Dec. 1				VANDERBILT	at Tennessee

1979 STANDINGS	Conference	Overall
Alabama	5-0-0	10-0-0
Georgia	5-1-0	5-5-0
Auburn	4-1-0	8-2-0
LSU	4-2-0	6-4-0
Kentucky	3-2-0	4-6-0
Ole Miss	2-3-0	3-7-0
Mississippi State	2-3-0	3-7-0
Tennessee	1-3-0	5-4-0
Vanderbilt	0-5-0	0-9-0
Florida	0-6-0	0-8-1

*Alabama home games are played at Birmingham or Tuscaloosa

**At Jacksonville

¢Ole Miss home games are played at Jackson or Oxford

#Mississippi State home games are played at Jackson, Starkville or Memphis

THE RACE

Alabama has clinched no worse than a tie for its 17th SEC championship. Auburn could make it a two-way tie with Georgia with a win over Alabama next week. Although Auburn could have the same record as Alabama and Georgia, the Tigers are on probation and not eligible for the championship.

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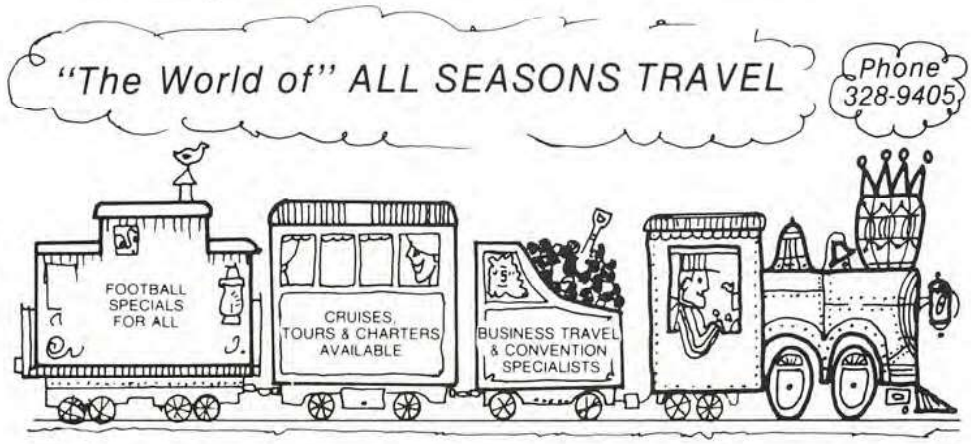
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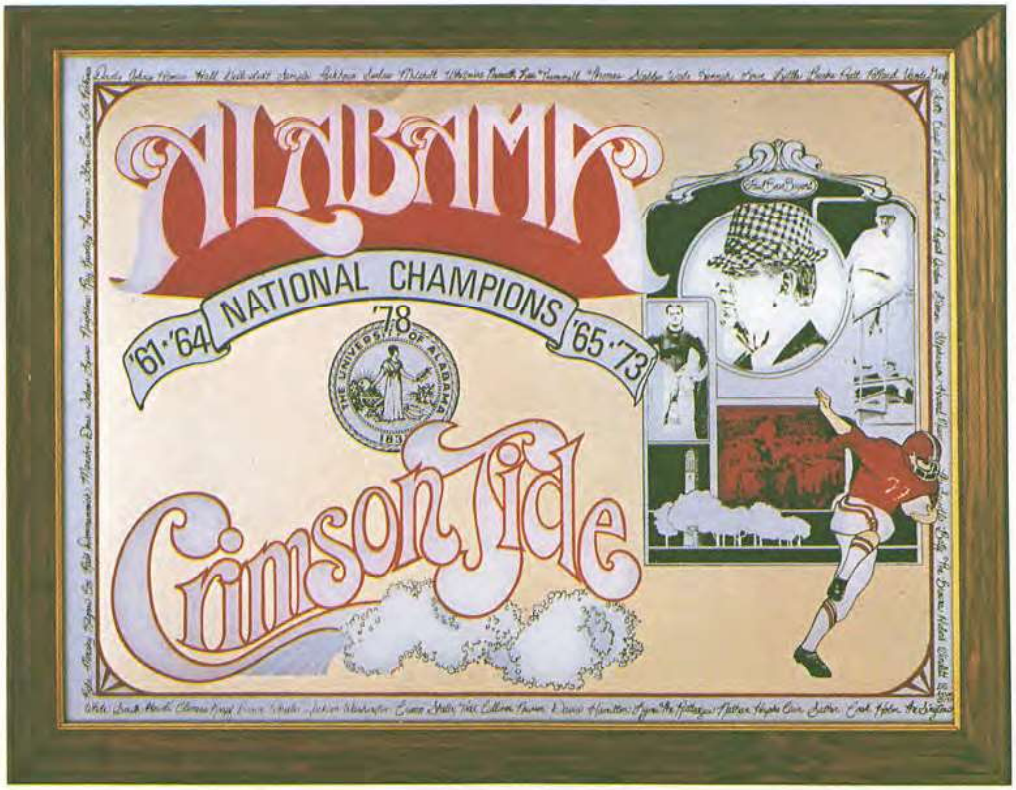

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